PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #74A-7 Building Date: early 1840's

Building Name: Bermondsey

Location: 2202 Bermondsey Drive, Mitchellville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Unoccupied/Deteriorated/Inaccessible

Description

Bermondsey is a two-part stuccoed brick plantation house; the main block is two-and-one-half stories, with gable roof, three bays by two bays. Entrance is in the first bay of the principal east facade, through a door with a wide transom, and sidelights over wainscot panels. Most of the glass is missing from transom and sidelights, and the six-panel wood door has been removed. The main block rests on a high brick foundation which encloses a full basement story, virtually a fourth story of living space. The brick is laid in random American bond, covered with stucco. Windows are 6/6 double hung wood sash with stone sills; most glass is missing. The boxed cornice surmounts a plain board frieze. There are two interior chimneys at the north gable end. Interior plan of the main block is typical of the early nineteenth century: side stairhall with two adjoining parlors. Extending to the north from the north gable end, and inset on both east and west facades, is a two-story gable-roof kitchen wing, three bays long. The house is in seriously deteriorating condition. but the new owners have begun stabilization.

Significance

Bermondsey is an ante-bellum plantation house of the early rural Greek Revival style. It was built by Charles Hill of Thorpland, and is one of only a few brick dwellings of its type surviving in Prince George's County. The house was built in the early 1840's for Hill's son, Charles Clement Hill. It was a house style popular in the early nineteenth century, with side stairhall and adjoining parlors, and interior trim of the classical, Greek Revival style. Renamed Bermondsey, it was the home for nearly 50 years of Hill's sister Helen, wife of John Brown Brooke, Jr., State Delegate and later Judge of the Circuit Court. The house has stood vacant since the late 1960's; it is in deteriorating condition, but will soon undergo renovation. Bermondsey is one of only a few ante-bellum brick dwellings of its type surviving in Prince George's County; it was the home of several members of the County's wealthiest and most influential families. After its restoration, it will once again beavisible and important landmark in Prince George's County.

Acreage: 6.9 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi	No.	
DOE	yes	_no

1. Nam	e (indicate	preferred name)			
historic Be	ermondsey				
and/or common	•				
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	2202 Bermon	dsev Drive		_	not for publication
***************************************	chellville	vicinity	of congressi	onal district	5
				George's	
	yland sification	· · · · · ·	ounty 111100		
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considere not applicab	yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	con gress edu ente ted gov ricted inde	t Use iculture imercial icational ertainment iernment ustrial itary	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prop	erty (give na	mes and mailin	g addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name	Bob G. Beama	n			
street & number	10708 Javins	Street	t	elephone no	o.:
city, town	Glenn Dale		state and zip	code Maryl	and 20769
5. Loca	ation of Le	egal Descri	ption		
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. P	rince George's Co	unty Courthouse)	liber 6561
street & number	M	ain Street			folio 66
city, town	U	pper Marlboro		state	Maryland
6. Rep	resentatio	n in Existi	ng Histori	ical Surv	eys
title Prince	George's County	Inventory of His	toric Sites		
date 1974			fed	eral stat	te X county loca
depository for su	rvey records His	toric Preservatio			
city, town		pper Marlboro		state	Maryland
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #74A-7

Condition excellent	Check oneX_ unaitered altered	Check oneX_ original site moved date of move	
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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Bermondsey is a two-part stuccoed brick gable-roof plantation house which stands on level farmland in central Prince George's County. It is in poor condition, and some of its interior features have been removed or vandalized.

The main block is two-and-one-half stories, with gable roof, three bays by two bays, 33 by 37-1/2 feet. Entrance is in the first bay of the principal east facade, through a door with a wide transom, and sidelights over wainscot panels. Most of the glass is missing from transom and sidelights, and the six-panel wood door has been removed. The entry porch which once sheltered this door is now missing, the 1936 Historic American Buildings Survey photograph shows this high porch with fully pedimented gable roof supported by two wood Tuscan-style columns, and geometric patterned railings bordering the sides. The wide supporting wood pilasters remain, as do the wide stone steps.

The main block rests on a high brick foundation which encloses a full basement story, virtually a fourth story of living space. The brick of the super structure is laid in random American bond, covered with stucco as was originally intended. Windows are 6/6 double hung wood sash with stone sills; most glass is missing. The 1936 HABS photograph shows dark louvered shutters, but none remains. The boxed cornice surmounts a plain board frieze. There are two interior chimneys at the north gable end. The gable roof is covered with dark shingle. Two small windows light the loft level at each gable end.

Interior plan of the main block is typical of the early nineteenth century: side stairhall with two adjoining parlors. The main east entrance leads into a wide stairhall. The open string two-run staircase rises along the south (exterior) wall of the stairhall, turns 90° at a landing (which is lighted by a downset window in the third bay of the north facade), and turns 90° again to the second story. The heavy turned newel has been removed as also have been the round tapered balusters and

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Description (continued)

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Section	. 7	Page 2

the stair risers. The stair ends have scroll brackets, and the spandrel is panelled. Door and window surrounds on the first story are classical in style; plain wide pilasters with molded capitals flank the openings, which are surmounted by plain board frieze and molded cornice. The six-panel door survives at the west end of the stairhall; it has neither transom nor sidelights. The same surround highlights the double-door opening between the east (front) and west (rear) parlors, but the tall panelled doors have been removed. Each of the two wooden mantels in the parlors has also been removed. Baseboards survive: they are high board with a three-course crown molding. Door and window surrounds on the second story are simpler: a two-step board surround with inner beard, and plain small corner blocks.

Extending to the north from the north gable end, and inset on both east and west facades, is a two-story gable-roof kitchen wing, three bays long, 33 by 18 feet. Bonding, roof and fenestration are the same as in the main block. There is an interior chimney at its north gable end. The high brick foundation encloses a crawl space beneath the wing. A circa 1940 one-story concrete block addition spans the west facade of the wing, making it flush with the west facade of the main block. Interior door and window surrounds in the wing are of plain board.

The Bermondsey house stands on a knoll surrounded by old trees, and is accessible by a long unpaved lane which runs south from Woodmore Road. The house is in seriously deteriorating condition, but the new owners have begun the work of stabilizing the structure.

8. Signi	ficance		Survey No. P.G.	#74A-7
Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture X architecture — art — commerce — communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation ocal History
Specific dates	C3 1840	Builder/Architect		

Level of Significance: Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

D

state

local

C

В

national

Bermondsey is an ante-bellum plantation house of the early rural Greek Revival style. It was built by Charles Hill of Thorpland, and is one of only a few brick dwellings of its type surviving in Prince George's County. It is in seriously deteriorating condition, and the new owners have begun plans for its restoration.

Specific dates

ca. 1840

Applicable Exception: A B C

check: Applicable Criteria:

and/or

Bermondsey stands on a very large and old tract called Collington Manor and part of adjoining Pye Anna's Grove, just south of the road between Woodmore and Mitchellville. In 1831, Charles Hill of Thorpland purchased this land from the holdings of William A. Hall of neighboring Partnership; Hill bought up large amounts of land in Prince George's County during this period and by mid century was one of the wealthiest men in the County, owning more than 3,000 acres at a value of well over \$100,000.1 The house at Bermondsey was built in the early 1840's for Hills' son, Charles Clement Hill. The younger Hill married Emily Snowden of Montpelier in April 1845, and the new house, built for them by his father, became their home. It was a house style popular in the early nineteenth century, with side stairhall and adjoining parlors, and interior trim of the classical, Greek Revival style. It can be compared to three other brick plantation houses of this period: the Rectory at Holy Trinity ca. 1830 (#71A-9b), Pleasant Hills, mid 1830's (#82A-2), and Melford, mid 1840's, (#71B-16). Bermondsey was distinguished from the others by its somewhat simpler classical wood moldings, its high brick foundation which gave it an additional story of living space, and its stucco covering.²

Charles Hill conveyed this 268-acre farm (as well as an adjoining 136 acre farm, part of Partnership) to his son by Deed of Gift, "for better maintenance, livelihood, support and preferment", in 1848. In 1857, however, Charles Clement Hill reconveyed the 404-acre farm to his father. probably in preparation for turning the farm over to Helen Hill, younger sister of Charles C., who in that year married John Brown Brooke, Jr., of Poplar Neck.³ Brooke had been elected to the House of Delegates in 1852

Section 8 Page 2

and again in 1854, and to the Maryland Senate in 1861, and later served as Judge of the Circuit Court. Brooke was a secessionist, and moved south during the Civil War. He returned to Prince George's County after the war, by which time Charles Hill, Sr., had died, and his son Charles Clement Hill had inherited and moved into the Hill family home at Thorpland. Charles Hill had specified in his will, probated in 1868, that the 404-acre farm on which Charles Clement Hill resided was to be held by him in trust for his younger sisten Helen, for her sole use and benefit, and after her death to her children; it was to this farm that the Brooke family returned after the war. They called it Bermondsey, for the section of London by that name in the borough of Southwark, and it was the Brooke family home until early in the twentieth century. In 1901, Helen Hill Brooke drew up a Deed of Partition among her children, allotting the house and 37-1/2 acres to her son, Bernard H. Brooke.

After Helen Hill Brooke's death later in 1901, her children joined together to sell 314 acres of Bermondsey farm to Robert J. Nelson. The Nelson family raised tobacco and corn, and established a dairy farm at Bermondsey; it remained in their possession for nearly a half century. During some of this period it was the home of Nelson's daughter Nora, wife of Reverend Preston Peach, and her family; the Peaches were missionaries, and spent much of their time in Malaysia; those periods when they were in Maryland, however, were spent at Bermondsey. The house was later occupied by tenants and was empty for some periods; in 1951 it was sold to Morris and Audrey Suit, who repaired the house and converted to the production of tobacco and beef cattle. The house has stood unoccupied since the late 1960's. Some elements of the interior trim, e.g., doors, mantels, and some floor boards, were distributed among family members; the house has also suffered considerable vandalism.⁸ The property was sold to a development company in 1976, but development was not initiated until 1985. The developers, Four Thirty Seven Land Company, have platted the 79-acre portion which includes the old house into 20 lots; the Bermondsey house stands on Lot 10. The new owners of Lot #10 are presently in the process of building an addition to the west (rear) of the house, after which they plan to restore the old house. Bermondsey is one of only a few ante-bellum brick dwellings of its type surviving in Prince George's County; it was the home of several members of the County's wealthiest and most influential families. After its restoration, it will once again be visible and important landmark in Prince George's County.

Notes

- Prince George's County Deeds AB #6:571; AB #7:471; Prince George's
 County Tax Assessments 1830-1850; Census for Prince George's County, 1850.
- Prince George's County Marriage Licenses; cf. also MHT files P.G. #71A-96, P.G. #71B-16, and P.G. #82A-2.
- Prince George's County Deeds JBB #5:311, CSM #1:490; Prince George's County Will WAJ #1:393.

Survey No. P.G. #74A-7
Section 8 Page 3

⁴ Van Horn, R. Lee, <u>Out of the Past</u>, pp. 334, 354-55; Bowie, E.G. <u>Across the Years in Prince George's County</u>, p. 93 ff. Prince George's County Will WAJ #1:393. Prince George's County Courthouse records show that Charles C. Hill brought suit against Helen and John B. Brooke in 1869, but the papers have been lost.

⁵ Prince George's County Deed of Partition #2:414.

⁶ Prince George's County Deed #24:183.

⁷ Conversation with Robert Peach, Spring 1987. Letter from Nelson L. Peach to B. G. Beaman, 2 April 1987.

⁸ Prince George's County Deeds #1394:140; conversation with Mina Suit Walker, Spring 1987.

⁹ Prince George's County Deed #490:340; Plat NLP #125:63.

Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Ged	graphical Data		
Acreage of nomin	ated property 6.9 acres		Tax map 62, lot 10 Quadrangle scale
Zone Eastir		В	asting Northing
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

11.	NAME					
	COMMON:			·····		**************************************
	AND/OR HISTORIC:		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
	Bermondsey					
2.	LOCATION					Na i Nagara
	STREET AND NUMBER:				<u> </u>	
	Woodmore Ro	ad				
	CITY OR TOWN:	-				
	Mitchellvil	le				
	STATE	·····		COUNTY		
	Maryland		ļ	Prince	George's	
3.	CLASSIFICATION	•				
	CATEGORY		0.0000000			ACCESSIBLE
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	Site Structure	Private	☐ In Proc		Unoccupied	Restricted
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13.	COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF D					8
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	Silver Spri	ng		Mai	ryland	ĺ

7.	DESCRIPTION								
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ļ	CONDITION		(Check Or	10)			(Che	ck One)	
į		B Alter	•d	☐ Uncltered		! 	☐ Moved	(C) Original Site	

The house is a two story, brick building sitting on a tall foundation. The three bay, main (east) facade has the entrance in the south bay, with 6/6 double hung sash windows to the north. The entrance has a multi-panel transom light and sidelights; the surround has doric order pilasters with marked entasis. A porch with round columns and pedimented roof is approached up a flight of granite steps. The frieze is a board with a center bead, and the boxed cornice has deep and flat bed and crown mouldings. The entire facade is plastered. On the north end is a double flush gable chimney.

The north wing is two stories but lower with a three bay facade of 6/6 double hung sash windows. On the north end is a flush gable chimney.

In plan, the main block has an end hall and double parlors. The ceilings are exceptionally high. Baseboards have flat mouldings; door surrounds are pilasters with applied moulded caps supporting low pedimented architraves. Ceiling mouldings are wide and Italianate profile. The wing is three rooms, the north running through the house, one of the two south rooms a staircase hall with the stairs rising across the front of the room. The fireplace is larger than those in the south block

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Form 10-445 (5/62)

1. STATE Md. COUNTY Prince Georges TOWN

VICINITY #22

STREET NO. 2 south Woodmore rd.

ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE

2. NAME Mermondsby

DATE OR PERIOD 1840 STYLE

ARCHITECT BUILDER

over brickfor Library of Congress use stucco

WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES 2호

OPEN TO PUBLIC

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INVENTORY

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

Telescoping wings 2 story south. Stucco flaking off badly.

Structure appears sound.

Original gate house to north/ probably torn down.

Housing developement beginning 2 mile down road from farm.

Owner extremely inhospitable. Future looks bad.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

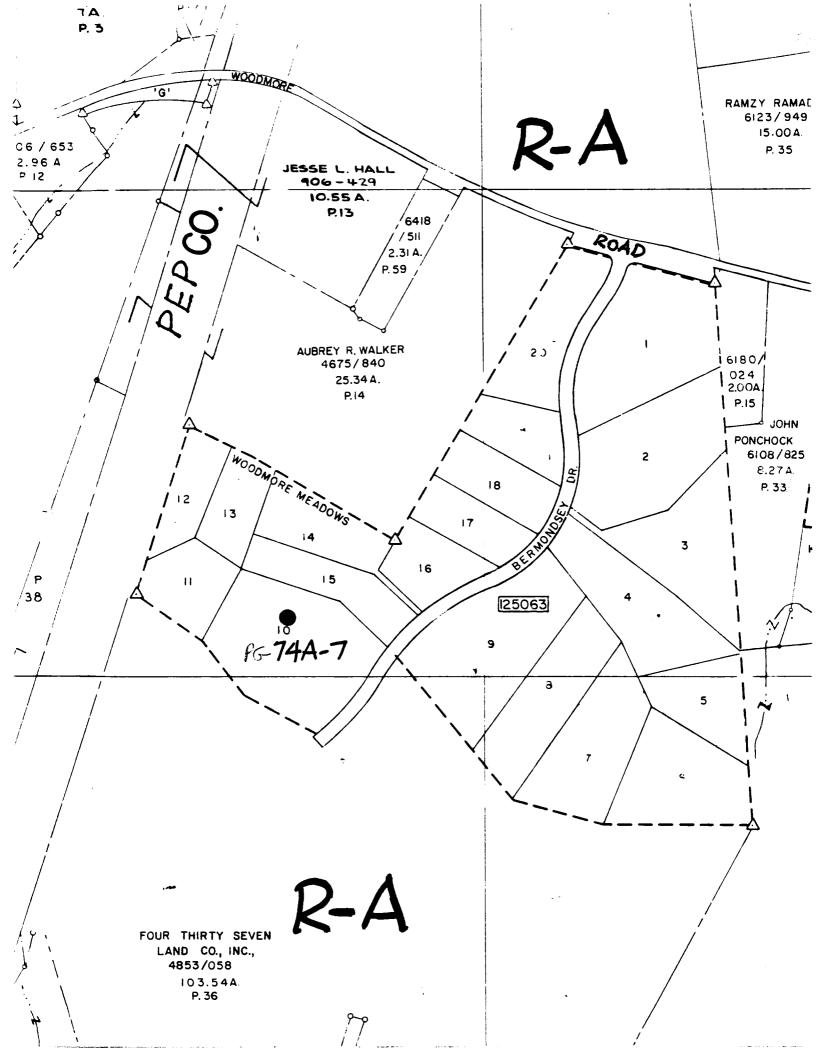
Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

Color # 924 7. PHOTOGRAPH

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER







Bermondsey
Prince George®s County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
West elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



Bermondsey
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
East entrance, exterior
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



Bermondsey
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
West entrance interior
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



Bermondsey
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
East entrance from interior
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



NAME BERMONDSEY

LOCATION S SIDE WOODMORE Rd. WOODMORE P.G.Co., Md.

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 10/7/74 M DWYER PG. 74A-7



Bermondsey
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Doorway, double parlor
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



NAME BERMONDSEY

LOCATION S SIDE WOODMORE Rd WOODMORE RG. Co. Md.

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 10/7/74 MOWYER